

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Asian and Red Melastome

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Asian and Red melastome

(*Melastoma candidum* and *Melastoma sanguineum*) are two related weedy shrubs that are difficult to tell apart. Both are planted in gardens for their showy flowers, though they quickly escape and have become nuisances on Oahu, Hawaii, and Kauai.

Identification

Height- up to 1.5-5 m tall (5-15 ft) tall

Leaves- 4-11 cm (1.5-4 in) long, 1.3-4 cm (.5-1.5 in) wide; 5-7 distinct arching veins

Flower- Pink or light purple; 5-6 petals

Fruit- Berries 10-17 mm (2/5-3/4 in) long; split open to reveal 5 or 6 cells full of seeds



Asian melastome flower



A melastome bush growing in Pukalani, Maui.



Melastomes have a distinct vein pattern and capsule fruit

Don't mistake Asian and Red Melastome for these look-alikes:



Koster's curse (*Clidemia hirta*) is a widespread pest in Maui County. This shrub 0.5-3 m (4.9-9.8 ft) tall with leaves 5-16 cm (2-6.3 in) long and 3-8 cm (1.2-3.1 in) wide. Leaves are covered in STIFF HAIRS.



Tibouchina (*Tibouchina urvilleana* and *Tibouchina herbacea*)

are also widespread pests in Maui County. This shrub is 3-4 m (10-15 ft) tall with velvety leaves covered in soft hairs.

These leaves have the same characteristic 5-7 arching veins as Koster's curse and the melastomes. Flowers are large (127 mm or 5 in) and deep purple with noticeable LONG YELLOW or PURPLE ANTHERS. FLESHY FRUITS are smaller than the melastomes and do not split open at maturity.



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